News from Ed Markey

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BUSH ADMIN. CANNOT DISREGARD LAW IN PAKISTANI-NORTH KOREA NUCLEAR TRANSFER

Bush Administration admits North Korean nuclear bomb development aided by Pakistan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Nonproliferation and a Member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, today released a letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell requesting further information on the connections between Pakistani and North Korean nuclear programs. The letter also asked when and if sanctions will be applied to Pakistan for assisting the North Korean nuclear weapons program in violation of U.S. nonproliferation laws.

"The Bush Administration's double standard on nonproliferation becomes more apparent every day," said Rep. Markey, explaining, "If you don't have nuclear weapons yet, like Iraq we'll threaten to attack you. But if you do have such weapons, and if you help another country get them, we'll just stand by and let you go about your business."

Rep. Markey said, "It's time for the Bush Administration to demonstrate its commitment to nonproliferation by either sanctioning Pakistan for assisting the North Korean's efforts to construct nuclear weapons or by explaining to the American people why they believe sanctions should be waived. If the Bush Administration really believes that Pakistan's assistance against Al Qaeda justifies issuance of a waiver for Pakistan's assistance to North Korea, it should say so."

Sections 101 and 102 of the Arms Export Control Act (the Symington and Glenn amendments) and Section 2(b)(4) of the Export-Import Bank Act require sanctioning any country that helps another gain access to nuclear materials. The sanctions are not optional, but they can be waived if the President elects to notify Congress of his intent to waive them. President Bush has announced neither sanctions nor waivers.

Rep. Markey's letter to Secretary Powell asks the following questions:

- When will the United States apply the sanctions required by Sections 101 and 102 of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 2(b)(4) of the Export-Import Bank Act to Pakistan?
- If these sanctions will not be applied, when will the President announce the legally allowed waivers to the sanctions?
- Will the United States oppose the use of international money to aid Pakistan in arming North Korea, as required by Section 823 of the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994?

Copies of this and all other correspondence can be found at http://www.house.gov/markey/.